



HNV farming in RDPs 2014-2020: results of a survey

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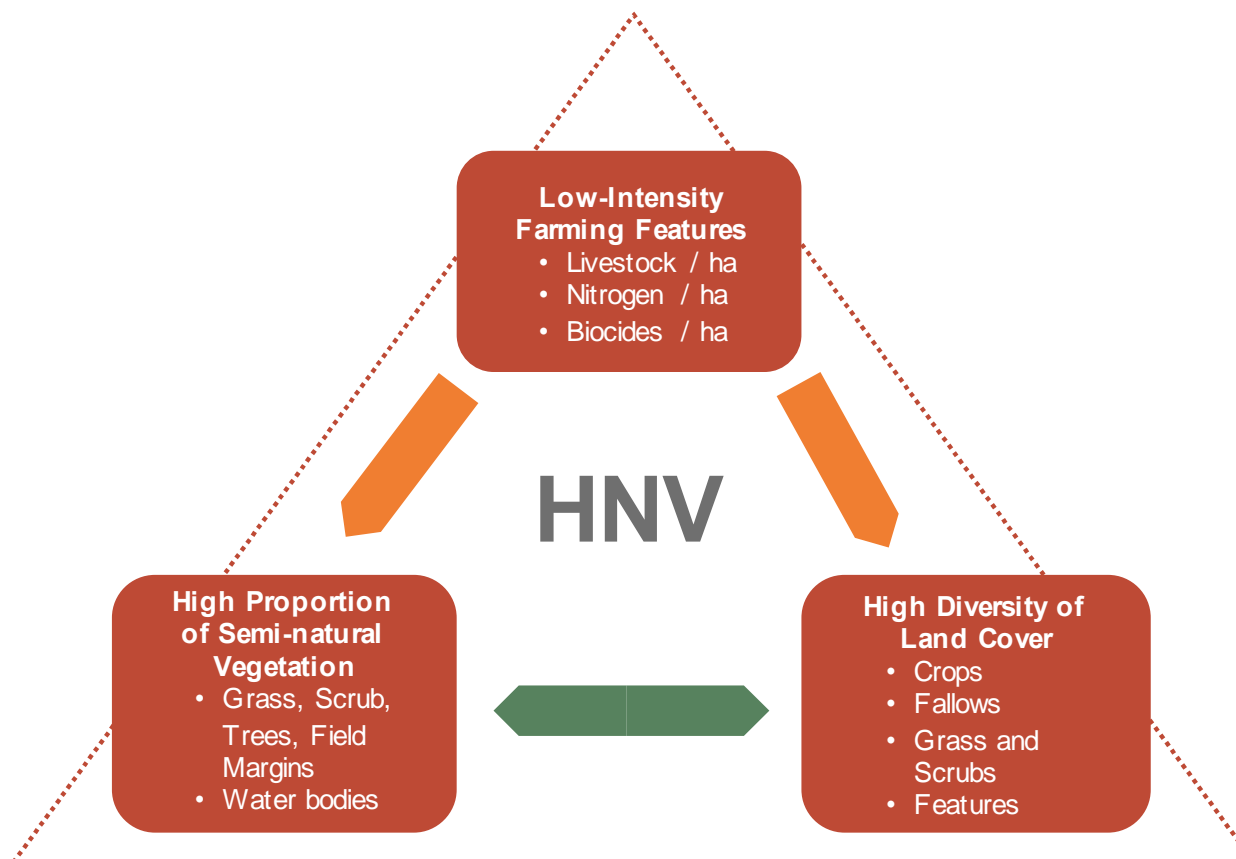


Content

- The concept of HNV farming
- HNV farming in RD policy 2014-2020
- The HNV survey: findings
- Conclusions
- Next steps



HNV farming: what is it all about?





HNV farming in the EU legislative framework

- **2007-2013:** Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF) recognizes HNV as one of the agri-environmental indicators to assess the effects of RDPs
- **2014-2020:**
 - CMEF is extended to the CAP as a whole
 - HNV farming becomes a context indicator (C37) & an impact indicator (I.09)
 - Reg. (EU) 1305/2013 includes HNV under FA 4A
 - HNV related Common Evaluation Questions are CEQ no. 8 (FA 4A related) in 2017 and to CEQs no. 26 and 28 (EU level objectives) in 2019 and in ex post evaluation



HNV in the CMES 2014-2020

- **Definition:** 3 categories of HNV farmland: type 1 (high proportion semi natural vegetation), type 2 (mosaic of low intensity agriculture and natural and structural elements), type 3 (rare species)
- **Measurement unit:** % of UAA
- **Data sources:** depending on method (CORINE, IACS/LPIS, agricultural census, species and habitat databases, GIS, surveys, RDP monitoring data, NATURA 2000, etc.)
- **Data level:** National, NUTS 1 or NUTS 2 level (values corresponding to RDP level)
- **Frequency of assessment:** at least 3 times between 2013 and 2022 (baseline, ex post and during the period – 2017/2018)



What makes HNV farming special?

HNV farming is the only CAP impact indicator for which there is no common methodology provided at the EU level:

- Recognizes uniqueness of HNV farming in Member States
- Allows use of different types of data
- No comparisons of territories but rather of trends in its preservation and/or enhancement

Each RDP should continue to use the same HNV method over a period of time → observation of changes!



HNV farming in RDPs 2014-2020

RDPs 2014-2020 include a value for HNV farming context indicator (C37), but...

1. **Missing values in SFC** or doubts about calculation;
2. **Missing information** on approaches taken in Member States to identify and monitor HNV farming

→ *Survey by Evaluation Helpdesk in Spring/Summer 2016:*

→ *65 responses received,*

→ *47 missing RDPs (BG, BE-Wallonia, ES 13 RDPs, FR, MT, PT-Madeira, UK-Northern Ireland and Scotland)*

→ *FR has conducted a study in 2014*

→ *Several replies of rather low quality (e.g. HU, UK-England)*

→ *Good Practice Workshop in Bonn on 5-6 June 2016*



FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY



Identification of HNV farming - methodology

General characteristics

- Most countries applied **general classification** of 3 different types of farmland to identify HNV farming (Andersen et al. 2003);
- Most countries arrive at a **spatially explicit mapping** as result of overlaying spatial data and identifying sites where relevant criteria are overlapping;
- Most commonly used **data sources**: Natura 2000 databases, CORINE, LPIS, IACS;
- For **biodiversity related data**, some countries (e.g. FI, SE, LT) limited use to rather static criteria (e.g. protected area status), while others have chosen more dynamic approach by using inventory/mapping databases identifying actual occurrences of the species/habitats (e.g. DK, EE, AT)



Identification of HNV farming – methodology

Different levels of sophistication

DK has scoring system (1-13 levels) counted annually

DE has grid-based mapping tools differentiate HNV quality into 3 levels (based on stratified sampling method)

EE uses comprehensive data overlay and scoring system defining different levels of HNV quality

RO, SE, SK show occurrence of indicator species for grasslands

LV, LT rely on the protected area status (Natura 2000)

FI has based on type of HNV land use as indirect indicator

NL does not measure quality yet

PL, HR has not yet determined a value for the HNV indicator



Identification of HNV farming – changes compared to 2007/2013

Most significant changes introduced

- DK: Totally **new mapping-based approach** enabling assessment of areas outside Natura 2000
- EE: **New methodology** and calculations for identifying HNV farmland proposed
- IT: Expecting **more detailed data** availability for biodiversity
- SK: **New methodology** considering extent and quality of HNV farming introduced in 2014
- HU: **New system** will be introduced – currently in planning phase

What changes are MS planning

More data planned to be gathered; methodological improvements



Identification of HNV farming – baseline

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
							FI				
		IT						IT			
			ES			ES					
				DE				DE			
				EE							
						PT					
							SE		SE		
								AT			
								SI			
								NL			
								CZ			
										DK	
										RO	

Baseline not yet set (e.g. EL, HR, LV, LU, PT-Açores)



Monitoring of HNV farming – extent

Wide range of data used reflecting the complexity of HNV definition(s), including agricultural and land use statistics, IACS and different environmental monitoring data

- 1. Specific HNV monitoring programmes** (e.g. DE, DK, IT-Veneto and RO)
- 2. Secondary data sources** collected for other purposes: part of RDP related monitoring and data from paying agencies (e.g. FI, HU and PL) or part of more general monitoring of semi-natural grasslands and habitats (e.g. EE, SE and SK)
- 3. Monitoring approach not yet set up** (e.g. ES-Castilla La Mancha, HR, LV, PT-Azores)

Frequencies of updates (depending on availability of data used): **yearly** (e.g. DK, FI, SK); **biannual** (e.g. LT); **multi-annual** (e.g. BE-Flanders)



Monitoring of HNV farming – quality

1. **Indirect assessments** using agricultural land use data (e.g. SI)
2. More **direct biodiversity assessment** using data from habitat monitoring:
 - Changes in habitats and vegetation composition reflect changes in management practices and HNV quality (e.g. EE, ES-Madrid, IE, RO)
 - Combination of field inventory and aerial photos with more in-depth monitoring of flora and fauna species of selected grassland areas (e.g. SE)
3. **HNV quality monitoring not set up** (e.g. BE-Flanders, ES-Castilla y León, ES-Castilla La Mancha, FI, HR and NL): method and data used for monitoring the extent of HNV applied to quality monitoring; studies to test changes in indicators and quality



Examples of monitoring quality of HNV farming

1. Index calculation (e.g. EL)
2. **Mapping tool** for the identification of quality levels which fulfil threshold to qualify as HNV (e.g. AT)
3. **Different quality categories** are considered in HNV mapping tools:
 - 14 criteria considering landscape, habitat, land use and species as a basis to generate scores between 1 – 13 (DK)
 - 3 quality levels and of individual types of HNV farmland (DE)
 - HNV value matrix: Scores for weights and values within the range of 0 - 5 were given to each group of indicators measuring land use management, nature conservation, landscape diversity and inherent natural quality (EE)



Monitoring of HNV farming – trends

1. **Decrease in the share of HNV farmland** at the total agricultural area from 2008/9 to 2015 reported (e.g. DE, FI and SI)
2. In other cases the **extent of HNV farmland remained constant** over a similar period (e.g. BE-Flanders and RO)
3. Baselines have been established and **assessments of trends are envisaged** in the future (e.g. DK, EL, ES-Castilla y León, IE, IT-Valle d'Aosta, PT-Mainland and SK)

Few replies on questions related to assessment of trends!



Further improvements planned

- Improvements of databases (e.g. LT, SE)
- Further development of type 3 HNV farmland (e.g. AT)
- Better utilisation for net-impact assessments in RDP evaluations (e.g. DE)
- Work on HNV farming systems and linking land cover to farms in order to assess impacts (e.g. several IT RDPs).
- Setting up of new subgroups for monitoring different types of HNV (e.g. SK)



Gaps observed in the Member States

Based on survey, following gaps emerging:

HNV farming not defined yet in a small number of MS (e.g. RDPs in PL and HR)

No approach to monitor HNV farming (e.g. RDPs in ES-Castilla La Mancha, LV and PT- Açores) **and/or have not established a baseline** (e.g. RDPs in EL, HR, LU)

Assessment of quality of HNV farming is biggest gap in the assessed approaches (e.g. RDPs in BE-Flanders, ES-Castilla y León, FI, NL)

No replies to the HNV survey from the following RDPs: BE-Wallonia, all RDPs of FR, BG, MT, PT –Madeira, UK-Northern Ireland, UK-Scotland and most of the Spanish RDPs.

In **several cases low quality answers** are provided (e.g. LU, UK-England). HU provided insufficient information in the survey.



Conclusions

- **Close information gaps** on Member States' approaches on HNV farming → missing surveys still welcome!
- **Proper HNV farming baselines** in RDPs are precondition for a sound assessment of HNV farming
- **Specific and regular monitoring of HNV farming** should be ensured, especially for quality assessment (also using GIS and studies)
- **Robust methods to assess HNV farming** chosen by RDP:
 - Suited to the prevailing bio-physical characteristics and farming systems, and based on the highest quality and most appropriate data available
 - **Able to gauge dynamic changes** rather than **static assessment** of bio-physical elements
- **Strengthened cooperation and exchange** between HNV stakeholders for an improved understanding of the concept and a benchmarking of the chosen approaches.

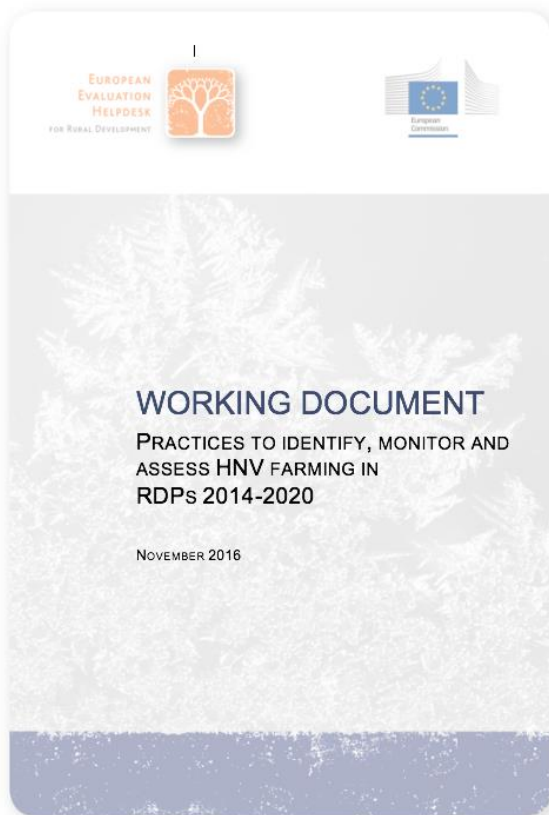


Next steps

- Based on the info gathered, the **approaches on CI 37** and the **values reported in the SFC** are assessed for each RDP:
 - Assessment criteria based on the CI 37 fiche: **compliance** (measurement unit, data level, updates) and **approach** (completeness, relevance, robustness)
 - Information gaps to be closed with further **questions** to **MAAs**
- Goal is to start publishing **values for CI 37** on DG AGRI website in the yearly CAP context indicator update (*see http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-indicators/context/index_en.htm*)



The Working Document



Shows

- the state of play of approaches in the Member States
- Trends
- Gaps



Thank you for your attention!

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